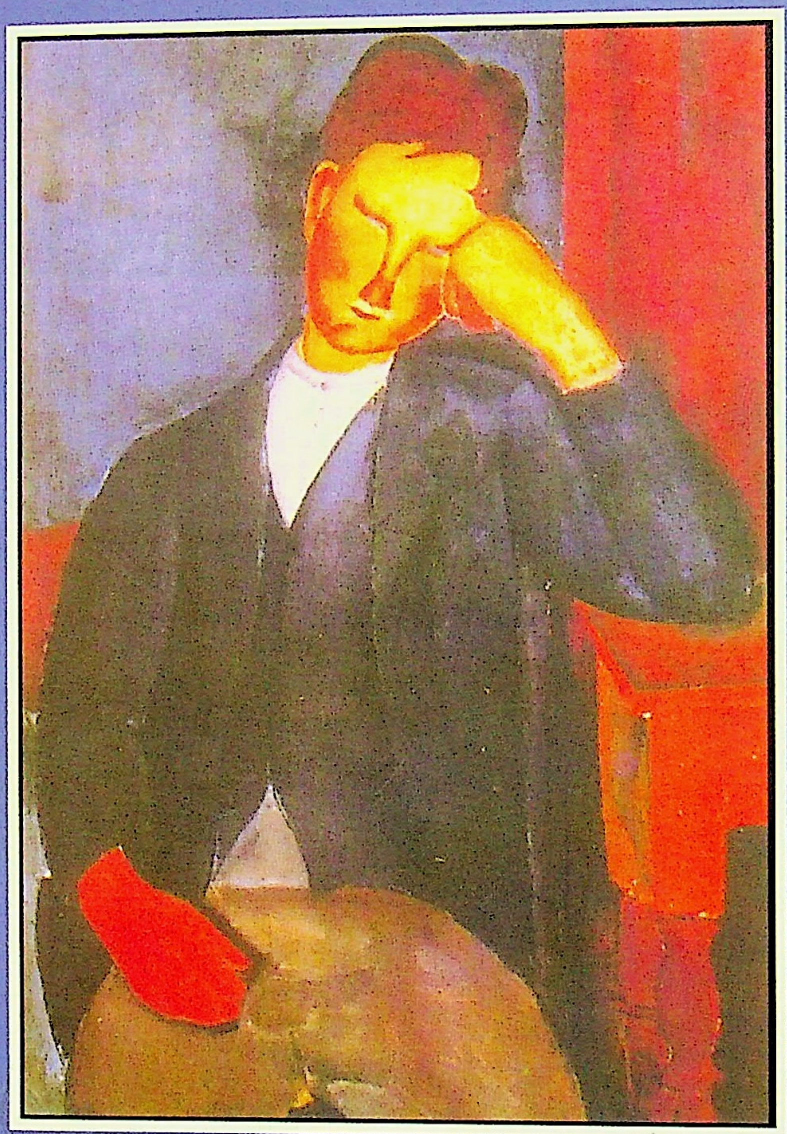
A New Lexicon of the Kashmiris



B L Saraf

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First Published 2010

ISBN 978-81-7476-678-6

Cover Painting: *The Apprentice* Modigliani

Courtesy: *Great Painters and Great Paintings*, Reader's Digest

Printed at: Printline, New Delhi

Neither acknowledgements nor apologies to Arvind Gigoo whose *The Ugly Kashmiri* stirred me to write this book

Neither acknowledgements nor apologies to Arvind Gupta whose *The Ugly Kashmiri* started me to write this book

For the eighty-two-year-old widow Sampkuj living in a well-furnished flat in a posh locality and her two sons - the citizens of US now - who are extremely happy that the young maid Salochna looks after their mother very well.

And for the septuagenarian Gopi Nath who, in an old age home, is waiting for his end.

PREFACE

Old definitions and meanings of words have fallen apart. New, bordering almost on contrast, have emerged. One fails to discern the appropriate meaning of a word or its opposite. The line between the opposites has disappeared. The text of life has changed. So has the context. And thus new definitions have sprouted. The contemporary Kashmiri politics, culture and ethos have done so. The events of the last twenty years in Kashmir, the uncanny attitudes of the Kashmiris and the roles played by the politicians are responsible for these accretions to the lexicon .

B L SARAF

23 Saraswati Vihar
Akalpora Road
Lower Muthi Jammu
Jammu and Kashmir
181205

PREFACE

Old definitions and meanings of words have fallen apart. New, bordering almost on contrast, have emerged. One fails to discern the appropriate meaning of a word or its opposite. The line between the opposites has disappeared. The text of life has changed. So has the context. And thus new definitions have sprouted. The contemporary Kashmiri politics, culture and ethos have done so. The events of the last twenty years in Kashmir, the uncanny attitudes of the Kashmiris and the roles played by the politicians are responsible for these accretions to the lexicon .

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A New Lexicon of the Kashmiris

(1)

Accession

1. Amalgamation of shared values
2. Usurpation of the basic rights of the weak by the powerful

(2)

Acquired Sufficiency Syndrome

a) Ring ceremony, unknown in the old home, but in vogue in the migrant camps - a pre-marriage event embellished with great lavishness

b) Ghar Achchun : Home warming without home

(3)

Affidavit

A solemn affirmation a Pandit migrant is asked to make every now and then to prove that he is alive

(4)

Alienation

Separation of power seekers from the seat of power

(5)

Annotation

A compulsive adverse comment by the Kashmiri intellectuals on the works of those living on either side of the Jawahar Tunnel

(6)

Antipodal

Kashmir- centric politicians and Jammu based nationalist leaders

(7)

Argument of the Weak

A Kashmiri Pandit raising the slogan:
Hindu Muslim Sikh Ithehad

(8)

Article 370

1. Immunity from accountability
2. A whip that suits the convenience of the opportunist politicians

(9)

Assets Becoming Liabilities

Jehadis who aimed at India turn on Pakistan

(10)

Balancing Act

Accommodate thirty others before accommodating one Kashmiri Pandit

(11)

Business of Leisure

Blending business with leisurely indulgence in the Kashmiri Pandit migrant politics

(12)

Blasphemy

Acquisition of land by Shri Amarnath Shrine Board

(13)

Catch and Kill

1. Catch him, cash him and leave him
2. Catch him, cash him and kill the other

(14)

Celebrity Cause-mongers

Speakers of half-truths, unsolicited on behalf of the war-mongers

(15)

Civil Society

A vocal group of armchair self-patters who jump to condone every uncivil act of the terrorists

(16)

Claque

The inhabitants of the migrant camps herded to
Abhinav Theatre to listen to their 'sole benefactor'

(17)

Clash of Civilizations

Erstwhile comrades in arms, fighting progressive forces around the world together and now turning arms on each other

(18)

Coddler

Spurious nationalists taking up the cause of the rabid communalists

(19)

Cordon

1. Lay siege for the innocent
2. Open escape route for the wanted

(20)

Corruption

1. A welcome fallout of Kashmir insurgency
2. A low risk and highly lucrative enterprise

(21)

Comparative Satisfaction

Fifty Kashmiri Pandit migrants died in 1990 due to sunstrokes and snakebites.
Only ten Kashmiri migrants died in 2007 due to abnormal weather conditions

(22)

Concrete Steps

Much written on paper in a language designed to fill up as much space as possible without meaning or doing anything

(23)

Conscription

Employment promised to the exiled youth on the condition that they work and live in Kashmir

(24)

Credit and Blame

If we win I get the credit
If we lose you get the blame
(Experts on Kashmir)

(25)

Dependence Syndrome

A disease which makes the public servant pliant in the present with the aim at post-retirement avenues

(26)

Desperate Busy-ness

A phenomenon Kashmir went through in the early 1990s with unfinished projects, incomplete and deserted buildings lying unattended, unmoving vehicles, stationary machinery

(27)

Dichotomy

'I still imagine living in Kashmir.'
'I dread the idea of living in Kashmir.'

(28)

Diaspora

Exiled Marazis and Kamarazis living together in the ghettos of Muthi, Mishriwala and Purkhoo

(29)

Dual Currency

Currency printed in self-ruled POK and loved by the green flag-holders in Kashmir

(30)

Dynasty

Where nothing beyond near and dear ones is seen or taken into account

(31)

Empowerment

Give power to all the leaders of Kashmiri Pandit migrants

(32)

Facade

1. Kashmir is a settled issue
2. Kashmir is a disputed matter
3. Kashmir is neither settled nor disputed

(33)

Family

Basic building-block of the society broken for the Kashmiri Pandits

(34)

Feast of Love

22 Course Wazwan – comprising mutton and chicken

(35)

Felicific Calculus

Exercise undertaken by the politicians with an eye on the votes at the hustings

(36)

Filial Gratitude

Dump the old and infirm parents in an old age home and be free from all obligations

(37)

Fissiparous Tendencies

1. We won't go to Jagti.It will be our second migration
2. We will be better at Jagti
3. We will surely return to our original places in Kashmir
4. We will return only to the exclusive places in Kashmir

(38)

Forlorn Hope

An aged Pandit living in the migrant camp and longing to be consigned to the flames in his ancestral crematorium

(39)

Freedom Fighter

One who makes others die for his own cause ....

(40)

Future

Continuation of the paradox in Kashmir :
Divergence and Convergence

(41)

Gaffe

Ignorant Kashmiri Pandit talking of the return

(42)

Gross Domestic Product
(Patented)

Inefficiency, corruption, lethargy, black money

(43)

Gerrymander

Shift the Habba Kadal constituency to Jammu

(44)

Globalization

1. Civilized societal interdependence
2. Acquisition of destructive assets by the religious fundamentalists from anywhere and hitting soft targets everywhere
3. Convergence of destructive bigoted minds from Kashmir to Kabul, Chechnya to New York, passing through London

(45)

Guilt

The stink of blood in Kashmir which the fragrance of flowers could not remove

(46)

"Headless Chicken"

Experts on Kashmir

(47)

Here And There

Hand to mouth there
Very lavish here

(48)

Heritage of The Dead

Kashmir booming with the sound of guns and odour of gunpowder

(49)

Hitherto, Not Beyond

A Kashmiri Pandit migrant in Gulmarg

(50)

Homeland

Home without land

(51)

Human Rights

1. All human beings are born free with equal rights and dignity (Protector is the violator)
2. A bit inconsistent at times (Perpetrator is the victim)

(52)

Hurriyat Conference

A body of men and women who meet to repeal earlier resolutions of mass destruction

(53)

Hyphenated Argument

India to Pakistan : Stop cross border terrorism
Pakistan to India : Let Kashmir accede to Pakistan

(54)

Idiom

Language of the politician

(55)

Illusionist

A Kashmiri Pandit imagines living in old environs of Kashmir

(56)

Intrigue

Kashmiri Muslims tricked to live rooted in India. Kashmiri Pandits uprooted to live floating in the Indian airspace

(57)

Innocent Till Proved Guilty

A licence to commit crime for an elected 'criminal'
(Heard often in the corridors of power)

(58)

Inseparable Part

1. Irreversible union of head with torso
2. Head temporarily stitched to the torso, detachable on demand

(59)

Insufficiently Imagined

Kashmiris oscillating between accession to Pakistan, independence and self-rule

(60)

In Tandem

1. Angel and Satan work in unison.
2. In a religious congregation the devotees indulging in gossip and slander

(61)

Interpretation of Opposites

1. To understand Musharraf's 'four points' for self rule
2. To understand Manmohan Singh's 'one point' to solve the Kashmir problem

(62)

Interiorized Feeling of Inferiority

A Kashmiri Pandit attacking his own.....

(63)

Interlude

For a Kashmiri Pandit migrant a pause at the start with no end

(64)

Irreconcilable Agreements

1. Made by the people of Kashmir with themselves to shape their destiny
(Naya Kashmir)

2. Made by the tallest leader of Kashmir with the tallest leader of India
(Let us swim and sink together)

3. Made by the tallest leader of India with the people of Kashmir
(Plebiscite)

(65)

Irrelevant Eminence

Kashmiri Pandit, a jewel in the crown of Kashmiriyat, thrown out along with the crown

(66)

"Instrument of Tyranny"

A Kashmiri Pandit

(67)

Jargon

Thousands of words spun out by the Kashmiri intelligentsia living across the Tunnel to explain what is beyond explanation

(68)

Jejune

Theories of Kashmir experts

(69)

Joy of Laziness

Kashmiris here and there enjoying long spells of no work with full pay occasionally reading the book ***How to Spend Time Gainfully***

(70)

Kashmiriyat

1. For some a clog on their post -1931 aspirations
2. For others a dead baggage post -1947

(71)

Kashmir History

Winners' account : triumphant prose of the victor, tampered briefly with the weak interludes of the meek

(72)

Law of Reason

In Kashmir the philosophy of combatant irrationality

(73)

Leap of Faith

1990 : Our neighbour is perpetrator of terrorism in our country

2006 : Our neighbour is as much a victim of terror as we are

(74)

Liberal

Very generous in majority bashing , very miserly in words to condemn the misdeeds of some in the minority

(75)

Liberalization

Politicians and public servants at liberty to loot and plunder

(76)

Literate Uneducated

A Kashmiri Pandit

(77)

Loss of Inheritance

1. A Muslim neighbour arranging for the funeral of a Kashmiri Pandit
2. A Kashmiri Pandit teacher imparting education to the Muslim children

(78)

Loss of Sleep

What the prime minister suffers from the moment he hears the family members of a terrorist wailing and moaning when the terrorist is caught red-handed in a foreign country

(79)

Lost Cause

The urge of Kashmiri Muslims to live with their co-religionists in different geopolitical denomination not fulfilled

(80)

Loquitur

Every Kashmiri Pandit, in exile, in front of a microphone or wielding a pen crafting 'pearls of wisdom' for the gullible and then complaining about their deafness

(81)

Loyalist

A leader of the exiles sensible enough to know which side his political bread is buttered

(82)

Mainstream

1. For some : where, instead of water, politics flows down south-east and then dries up there
2. For others : a stream in Kashmir within the ambit of Indus River Treaty meant along with the source for riparian state down north-west

(83)

Mare's Nest

Dream of many Kashmiri Pandit migrants to return to the vale/wail/veil of Kashyap Rishi - pure and pristine without the pollution of other cultures

(84)

March of the Native

The march of the Kashmiri Pandits still continuing

(85)

Martyrdom

Death of a person for other's cause

(86)

Mass Exodus

Prospect of death is strong motivation

(87)

Meaningful Resources

Art of doubletalk ; power to invent tales and pass them on to the quarters concerned

(88)

Meaningful Dialogue

A meeting organized, talks held, without meaning a word and disperse with the resolve to repeat the exercise at regular intervals

(89)

Mercy

An attribute acquired recently by the Muslims in Kashmir towards the Kashmiri Pandits with the condition to live there on their terms

(90)

Migrant

1. One forced to leave his home and hearth
2. One who left Kashmir voluntarily on the whispered advice of the 'protector'

(91)

Migrant Camp

Ghettoisation of a fairly accomplished community
(Progression in reverse)

(92)

Migrant's Oration

A politico-literary trick when the speaker says nothing beyond announcing his unwelcome arrival on the stage

(93)

Migrant Ration Card

1. A sign of misery and despondency for the holder — an instrument to arouse pity
2. A passport to better amenities and a guarantee for the assured future of the progeny

(94)

Milch Cow For Kashmir

The Kashmiri Pandit holed up in a camp to milk the GOI under the head : Security Related Expenditure

(95)

Militancy

A running account to which old and new enmities, unjust and unexplained riches are credited

(96)

Militant

1. Freedom loving person fighting for a just cause of everyone
2. A tormentor aggressively active for a partisan cause

(97)

Modern Economy

Borrow and spend – the opposite of earn and save

(98)

Modern Leader

A species found more in numbers than the followers to tear the communities apart

(99)

Monologue of the Weak

Long live Kashmiriyat

(100)

Motive of the Press

Differences sell better

(101)

Movers and Shakers

Kashmiri Pandit intelligentsia and the litteratéurs

(102)

Neologism

Exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits is

1. Migration
2. Ethnic cleansing
3. Internal displacement

(103)

Non-state Actors

Politician's idiom used to shift the responsibility of his misdeeds

(104)

Nuclear Family

Husband and wife first. Subsequently, neither wife nor husband; nucleus detonated

(105)

Original Intent

Throw out the original inhabitant of Kashmir

(106)

Organizations

Plethora of Kashmiri bodies on the path of self-destruction, one running over the other

(107)

Oxymoron

Hurriyat
One faction is benign
Another is malignant

(108)

Pangram

Use all the sixty-two Kashmiri Pandit organizations in exile for one and only cause : "Let us go nowhere"

(109)

Panun Kashmir

Panun (our) taken out. Kashmir is left

(110)

Persona non grata

Kasmiri Pandits— Nehru's 'ambassadors in Kashmir'

(111)

Pluralistic Society

Where every section of people divides itself into sub-sections and then turns a 'have' into a 'have-not' to claim a share in the poverty

(112)

Prisoner of Conscience

A promoter of subversion

(113)

Politics

A nautch girl surrounded by the suitors

(114)

Premonition

Foresight which deserted the Kashmiri Pandits in 1947, 1967 and 1986

(115)

Precocity

A Kashmiri Pandit migrant baby talking of counselling in Maharashtra for entrance to the technical institutions and then a flight abroad

(116)

Pseudo-secularist

Denounce Hinduism and the Hindus in public; invoke Shiva's blessings and consult astrologers in private

(117)

Prominent Citizen

A chronic tax evader, compulsive corrupt public servant, turncoat politician — found in front row anywhere, anytime, any season, with a changed get-up

(118)

Pseudonym

Occasionally found in Migrant Ration Cards

(119)

Rage Boy

A professional protestor who turns up at every demonstration to express anger on perceived slights

(120)

Reason

We are here because you are there

(121)

Relief

An effective wave to break the pride of the civilized Kashmiri Pandit community, classic example of "beggary overtaking brilliance"

(122)

Relief Commissioner

Kalyug's Kuber – a distributor of doles to the waiting erstwhile "haves"

(123)

Regional Imbalance

1. For the Kashmiris it is to shed wings of Jammu and Ladakh and then do the balancing act singly
2. For the Jammuites it is to have perpetually the post of C M even if no real benefit accrues to them
3. For the Ladakhis it is a direct flight to Delhi without a travel through the proper channel

(124)

Remittance Economy

Money brought to Kashmir by the expatriate "freedom fighters" raised out of the sale of narcotics in the Golden Crescent Dominion, some minted in the fake mints

(125)

Ringxiety

I

The phone bell rings and you are informed that your daughter has made up her mind to marry a non-Kashmiri strictly in accordance with the Kashmiri Pandit rituals

(126)

Ringxiety

II

The phone bell rings and the Kashmiri Muslim tells you much which you don't hear

(127)

Security Scenario

Putting public matters in private domain and turning a private affair into a state one. A cover for all the ills of the state and the state affairs

(128)

Security Related Expenditure

A signed blank cheque drawn on the inexhaustible public bank account where private luxuries are taken care of and 'leisure and pleasure' expenses of the chosen few are debited to without the fear of audit and devoid of an obligation to repay

(129)

Scoop Journalism

Draw the conclusion and pronounce judgment first, then hunt for the evidence and facts

(130)

Silence

The grey area between a ' yes' and a 'no'

(131)

Shared Preference

Every politician's deed to restrict the business of politics only to his children and some relatives

(132)

Shibboleth

'Self-rule' espoused by a politician after jettisoning sixty-two-year-old 'Accession is Final' mantra

(133)

Social Emancipation

Adopting the cattiest agenda to capture State Power

(134)

State Government's Programme for the Migrants

Only motion, no action

(135)

Subaltern

Being second to anyone is unthinkable for a leader of the Kashmiri Pandit migrants

(136)

Submission

Abandonment of critical faculty and a clog on intellectual advancement

(137)

Suffrage

A Pandit migrant made to chase M Form to deny him a vote

(138)

Source of Funds

Build Ashrams, organize religious meetings at regular intervals and then rest possessed with all the material comforts

(139)

Special Status

Claim and receive largesse from the Centre, spend unproductively for the common man but very productively for the spender

(140)

Sycophancy – Kashmiri Style

In Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's regime:-

Everyone, including a confirmed atheist, rushing to offer Nimaz five times a day

In Farooq Abdullah's regime:-

A rotund armchair, unatheletic person of any hue religiously rushing to 18-hole Golf Course everyday

(141)

Taliban in Swat
(Boomerang)

Islamic Re-public of Pakistan in recession

(142)

Trust Deficit

A disease afflicting the communities living in Kashmir
(Symptom - a vacant look on each face)

(143)

Unalterable Fool

A Kashmiri Pandit migrant who says his permanent settlement outside Kashmir is an unalterable fact

(144)

Unfinished Agenda

For India – to claim Jammu and Kashmir as it stood in 1947
For Pakistan – to claim the whole of Jammu and Kashmir
For the Kashmiris – to humour both with no clear idea where to be

(145)

Untouchable

A law-enforcer-turned-law-breaker whom the long arm of the law cannot touch

(146)

Vested Interest

For

1. a militant to keep the pot boiling to justify foreign remittance
2. a security personnel to keep alive the toll-free road of militancy
3. a Kashmiri to accumulate the wealth and keep accountability at bay
4. a Kashmiri migrant to earn wages for no job done

(147)

VIP

Very potent for his perks, misuse of power and propensity to break the law and very impotent to deliver what is required of him

(148)

Vote Bank

A bank where the minority section of the society is deposited, to be cashed at the hustings

(149)

War on Terror

Ingrained delightfully in the American lexicon, trumpeted by the sole superpower after 9/11, ignored earlier when others suffered

(150)

Weapons of Mass Distraction

Apex Committees and forms like "Expression Of Interest" to be filled in

Social and political conditions took a new turn in Kashmir in 1990 when militancy and terrorism erupted suddenly. With this the meanings of many words underwent strange changes.

A New Lexicon of the Kashmiris expresses B L Saraf's observations of and comments on the happenings in Kashmir and Jammu. The definitions of the words reflect the author's comic, satirical and sad view of the political and historical events in Kashmir and of the condition of the Pandit exiles living in Jammu and other parts of India. Each definition shows the author's keen interest in men and matters. He annoys, laughs, tickles and bites. The book is an attempt to show that things gone wrong can be set right. An interesting reading for a Kashmir watcher.

Bushan Lal Saraf was born at Shopian in Kashmir in 1945. He was a member of the J&K state judicial service from where he retired as Principal District and Sessions Judge. At present he is living as an exile in Jammu.

Cover Painting: *The Apprentice* Modigliani



ISBN 978-81-7476-678-6

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